

REMARKS

Claims 1-6, 9-28, 31-35 and 38-43 are pending in this application.

Claims 45 and 49 have been indicated as allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants take this opportunity to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

By this amendment, Applicants have amended claims 1, 2, 4-6, 9-17, 19, 20, 23-28, 31, 32, 34 and 46-49, cancelled claims 21, 22, 39, 41 and 43 without prejudice or disclaimer and added new dependent claims 54-63.

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1-3, 9-12, 18-25, 31-34 and 38-43 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,999,721 to Ollis et al. (“Ollis”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,046,649 to Awater et al. (“Awater”) and U.S. Patent No. 6,560,443 to Vaisanen et al. (“Vaisanen”).

Claims 4-6, 13-17, 26-28 and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ollis, Awater and Vaisanen in view of alleged “applicant admitted prior art”.

Claims 1, 10, 20, 23 and 32 are drafted in independent form.

Claim 1, as amended, requires:

“a first parameter, which indicates currently enabled ones of the plurality of communication modules for use in responding to a host command, and

a second parameter, which indicates a priority order for operation of the enabled ones of the plurality of communication modules indicated by the first parameter in response to receiving the host command,

wherein the enabled ones of the plurality of communication modules indicated by the first parameter are operable in sequence according to the priority order indicated by the second parameter and the received host command.”

Vaisanen is directed to solving the problem of destructive interference that occurs whenever a device operates concurrently with WLAN and Bluetooth wireless protocols. Vaisanen solves this problem by ensuring that whenever one of the modules is transmitting its data, the other module is prevented from transmitting. In effect, Vaisanen discloses a time sharing schedule for transmitting data. Vaisanen also discloses WLAN as typically the preferred choice of communication linkage where one of the modules is WLAN and the other one is Bluetooth.

In contrast, the present invention, as defined by amended claim 1, is concerned with a different problem of how to optimally handle a host command relating to, e.g., device discovery and connection establishment in a multi-radio environment. The present invention, as defined by amended claim 1, solves this problem by providing mechanisms, in the form of the claimed first and second parameters, to indicate currently enabled communication modules of a plurality of communication modules for use in responding to a host command and a priority order for operation of the enabled communication modules indicated by the first parameter in response to receiving the host command. As claimed, the enabled modules are operable in sequence according to the priority order indicated by the second parameter and the received host command. As the Examiner will readily appreciate, the parameters of the present invention, as

defined by amended claim 1, provides, e.g., the host, with a great deal of flexibility in determining how operations that it requests are carried out.

Applicants respectfully submit that the first and second parameters of claim 1 are neither taught nor suggested by the cited prior art, including Vaisanen. Consequently, the systems disclosed therein lack the flexibility afforded by the present invention. Instead, the operation in Vaisanen appears to be quite fixed in terms of its control circuit's preference of WLAN over Bluetooth whenever a mobile terminal is in the coverage area of a WLAN access point. Also, Ollis does not teach or suggest the claimed first and second parameters of claim 1, but instead was relied upon in the Office Action to show that a user selects the protocol to be used for connection establishment. Additionally, in Ollis, the system selects one of a plurality of wireless transfer mechanisms to use to connect to a destination wireless computing device or uses multiple wireless transfer mechanisms to redundantly transmit the same information to the same destination wireless computing device. However, this does not disclose the claimed first and second parameters of amended claim 1. Awater also does not teach or suggest the foregoing first and second parameters, nor was it relied upon in the Office Action for these particular features, but instead, was cited only to show a plurality of communication modules sharing one RF transceiver.

In addition, Applicants respectfully submit that there is no motivation on the present record for modifying Ollis, Awater and Vaisanen to include the first and second parameters of amended claim 1. Furthermore, the motivation set forth in the Office Action for modifying Ollis and Awater in view of Vaisanen to include Vaisanen's preference for WLAN over Bluetooth – namely, to “prevent damage to the wireless modules that share the same frequency spectrum” is insufficient. This is because the alleged motivation of “preventing

damage” can be accomplished by ensuring that whenever a module is transmitting data, other modules are prevented from transmitting, as taught by Vaisanen, without also requiring Vaisanen’s preference for WLAN over Bluetooth, which is not disclosed in Vaisanen as “preventing damage”.

Accordingly, for at least the above-stated reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claim 1 is patentable over the combination of Ollis, Awater and Vaisanen.

Claims 10, 20, 23 and 32 contain features similar to those found in amended claim 1, and thus, are allowable for at least the same reasons.

Dependent Claims:

Applicants do not believe it necessary at this time to address the rejections of the dependent claims as Applicants believe that the foregoing places the independent claims in condition for allowance. Applicants, however, reserve the right to address those rejections in the future should such a response be deemed necessary and appropriate.

New Claims:

By the present Amendment, Applicants have added new dependent claims 54-63. Support for these claims may be found in, e.g., paragraph 52 of the instant application. The foregoing dependent claims 54-63 recite additional features believed to be patentable over the prior art of record.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that this Application is in condition for allowance for which action is earnestly solicited.

If a telephone conference would facilitate prosecution of this Application in any way, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number provided.

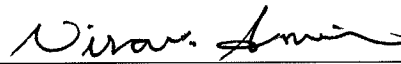
AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required by this response, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 4208-4136.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 4208-4136.

Respectfully submitted,
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